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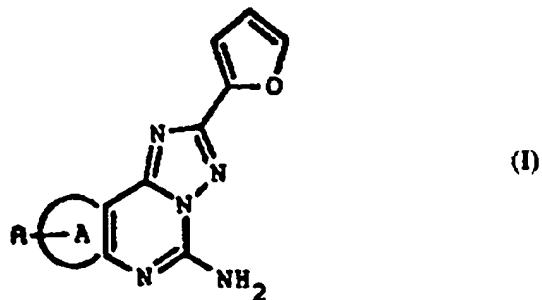
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(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP94/02031  (22) International Filing Date: 22 June 1994 (22.06.94)  (30) Priority Data: MI93A001396 29 June 1993 (29.06.93) IT  (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SCHERING-PLOUGH S.p.A. [IT/IT]; Via Ripamonti, 89, I-20141 Milano (IT).  (72) Inventors; and  (73) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BARALDI, Pier, Giovanni [IT/IT]; Via Ripamonti, 89, I-20141 Milano (IT). ZAPPATERRA, Laura [IT/IT]; Via Ripamonti, 89, I-20141 Milano (IT). ONGINI, Ennio [IT/IT]; Via Ripamonti, 89, I-20141 Milano (IT).  (74) Agent: MINOJA, Fabrizio; Studio Consulenza Brevetuale, Via Rossini, 8, I-20122 Milano (IT).	(81) Designated States: AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LU, LV, MD, MG, MN, MW, NL, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SI, SK, TJ, TT, UA, US, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  Published With international search report.
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(54) Title: 1,2,4-TRIAZOLO(1,5-c)PYRIMIDINE HETEROCYCLIC ANALOGUES HAVING ANTAGONISTIC ACTIVITY ON ADENOSINE A<sub>2</sub> RECEPTOR

## (57) Abstract

The compounds of formula (I) wherein R and A have the meanings given in the specification, are endowed with selective A<sub>2</sub> adenosine receptor antagonistic activity.



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1,2,4-TRIAZOLO[1,5-c]PYRIMIDINE HETEROCYCLIC ANALOGUES  
HAVING ANTAGONISTIC ACTIVITY ON ADENOSINE A<sub>2</sub> RECEPTOR

The present invention relates to compounds having antagonistic activity on adenosine A<sub>2</sub> receptor.

Adenosine is known to modulate a number of physiological functions. At the cardiovascular system level, 5 adenosine is a strong vasodilator and a cardiac depressor. On central nervous system, adenosine induces sedative, anxiolytic and antiepileptic effects. On the respiratory system, adenosine induces bronchoconstriction. At the kidney level, it exerts a diphasic action, 10 inducing vasoconstriction at low concentrations and vasodilatation at high doses. Adenosine acts as a lipolysis inhibitor on fat cells and as an antiaggregant on platelets (Stone T.W., Purine receptors and their pharmacological roles. In: Advances in drug research. Academic Press Limited, 1989, 18, 291-429; Progress Cardiovasc. Dis. 1989, 32, 73-97).

A number of studies showed adenosine actions are mediated by two subtypes of receptors which are located on the cell membrane: an high-affinity one, inhibiting 20 the activity of the enzyme adenylyl cyclase (A<sub>1</sub> receptor), and a low-affinity one, stimulating the activity of the same enzyme (A<sub>2</sub> receptor) (J. Med. Chem. 1982, 25, 197-207. Physiol. Rev. 1990, 70(3), 761-845. J. Med. Chem. 1992, 35, 407-422).

25 Intense research efforts have made it possible to identify and develop analogs to adenosine able to interact as agonists with the A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> receptor. As far as the antagonists are concerned, it is known that some

compounds with a xanthine structure are selective antagonists for the  $A_1$  receptor.

(J. Med. Chem., 1992, 25, 407-422). New compounds of pharmacological interest which possess an high antagonistic action for the  $A_2$  receptor have not yet been found.

The knowledge available on the physiological role of adenosine and its involvement in some pathological processes suggests that selective antagonists for the  $A_2$  receptor can be of pharmacological interest. At the level of the central nervous system, antagonistic  $A_2$  compounds should stimulate various cerebral functions and so possess antidepressive and stimulating properties for the cognitive functions. Moreover, numerous data show that the  $A_2$  receptors are present in high density in the basal ganglia of which the importance in the control of movement is known. Hence the hypothesis that  $A_2$  antagonists can improve motor-deficiency due to neurodegenerative processes at the level of important cerebral nuclei. It follows that  $A_2$  receptor antagonists could be useful in the treatment of neurodegenerative pathologies. Amongst these are included Parkinson's disease, senile dementia as in Alzheimer's disease and psychosis of an organic origin (Drug Dev. Res., 1993, 28, 381-385).

At a peripheric level,  $A_2$  receptor antagonists could stimulate the respiratory functions and therefore have a therapeutic effect in the treatment of bronchospasm and more generally asthma. Moreover, with regard to the effects at a cardiovascular or renal level, an advantageous activity on renal flow can be envisaged

and therefore the possibility of the treatment of renal insufficiency and of various cardiovascular disturbances.

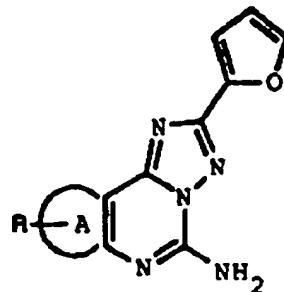
Some reference compounds interacting with A<sub>2</sub> receptor, even though in a not selective way, are known.

5 5-Amino-9-chloro-2(2-furyl)1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]quinazoline, named CGS 15943 (J. Med. Chem., 1988, 31, 1014-1020) and 4-amino-8-chloro-1-phenyl(1,2,4)-triazolo(4,3-a)quinoxaline, named CP 66,713 (J. Med. Chem., 1990, 33, 2240-2254) are compounds having a good 10 affinity for A<sub>2</sub> receptor, but also active on A<sub>1</sub> receptor. Only recently, xanthine derivatives have been found, e.g. (E)-1,3-dialkyl-7-methyl-8-(3,4,5-trimethoxystyryl)xanthines (J. Med. Chem., 1992, 35, 2342-2345), which seem to have a selective antagonistic 15 activity on A<sub>2</sub> receptors. However, the pharmacological profile thereof is unknown.

The compounds of the invention have the following general formula I:

20

25



I

in which:

A is a pyrazole, imidazole or triazole ring;

30 R is hydrogen; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl; C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> alkynyl; C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> cycloalkyl; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl substituted with

one or more halogen atoms, hydroxy groups, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> cycloalkyl, groups of formula -NR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, -CONR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>; aryl optionally substituted with halogen atoms, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy groups, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, nitro, amino, 5 cyano, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkoxy, carboxy, carboxyamido; C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aralkyl in which the aryl moiety can be substituted with one or more of the substituents indicated above for the aryl group; a group of formula -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-Het, wherein Het is a 5-6 membered aromatic or 10 non aromatic heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, O, S and m is an integer from 1 to 5;

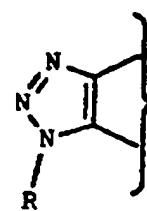
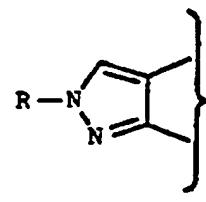
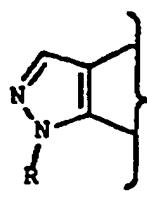
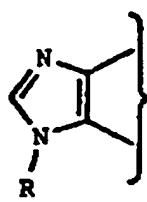
15 R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> which are the same or different, are hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aralkyl, phenyl, or taken together with the nitrogen atom they are linked to, they form an azetidine ring or a 5-6 membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms such as N, O, S and n is an integer from 2 to 5, with the proviso that, when 20 A is a pyrazole or imidazole, R is different from fluorobenzyl.

The disclaimed compounds are disclosed in Eur. J. Med. Chem., 1993, 28, 569-576,

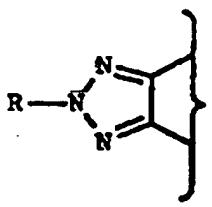
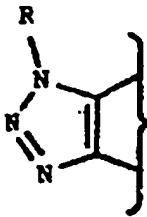
The invention also comprises the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of general formula I.

25 The possible meanings of A can be represented by the following structural formulae:

5



5



In compounds of formula I, examples of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl groups comprise preferably methyl, butyl and isopentyl.

Examples of C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> cycloalkyl groups are cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl.

Examples of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl groups substituted with C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> cycloalkyl groups are cyclohexylmethyl, cyclopentylmethyl, 2-cyclopentylethyl.

Examples of substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl groups comprise 2-hydroxyethyl, 2-methoxyethyl, trifluoromethyl, 2-fluoroethyl, 2-chloroethyl, 3-aminopropyl, 2-(4-methyl-1-piperazine)ethyl, 2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl, 2-aminocarbonylethyl, 2-dimethylaminoethyl, 3-dimethylaminopropyl. Aryl is preferably phenyl, optionally substituted with chlorine, fluorine atoms, methoxy, nitro, cyano, methyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethoxy groups. Examples of 5-6 membered heterocyclic groups containing N, O, S comprise piperazinyl, morpholinyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, pirrolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl. Examples of C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aralkyl groups comprise benzyl or phenethyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from chlorine, fluorine atoms, methoxy, nitro, cyano, methyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethoxy groups.

Preferably, R is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, aryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aralkyl optionally substituted, preferably with halogen atoms.

Particularly preferred compounds I are those in which R is a phenethyl group in which the phenyl ring may optionally be substituted by one or more substituents selected from chlorine, fluorine atoms, methoxy, nitro, cyano, methyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethoxy groups.

The compounds of general formula I have advantageous biochemical and functional properties related to their antagonistic action on the A<sub>2</sub> adenosine receptor, compared with the reference compounds CGS 15943 and (5-amino-8-(4-fluorobenzyl)-2-(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]-1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine), disclosed in Eur. J. Med. Chem., 1993, 28, 569-576 and hereinafter referred to as 8FB-PTP. The effects of the disclosed A<sub>2</sub> receptor antagonists may be demonstrated in one or more of the following standard in vitro and/or in vivo tests.

#### IN VITRO TESTS

##### Receptor binding

This test involves the ability of adenosine antagonists to displace radiolabeled agonists from A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> adenosine binding sites in membrane preparations from rat brain.

The rat cerebral tissue (whole brain and striatum) was from male Sprague-Dawley rats weighing 150-200 g. A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> receptor binding assays were performed according to Bruns et al. (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A., 1980, 77, 5547-5551) and Jarvis et al. (J.

Pharmacol. Exp. Ther., 1989, 251, 888-893), using [3H]N6-cyclohexyladenosine ([3H]CHA) and [3H]2-[p-(2-carboxy ethyl)-phenethylamino]-5'-N-ethylcarboxamido-adenosine ([3H]CGS 21680) as radioligands, respectively.

The test compounds were dissolved in dimethylsulphoxide (DMSO) and then diluted with assay buffer to give the test solutions. The final concentration of DMSO did not exceed 1% by volume, at 10 which level it did not affect radio ligand binding to the membrane receptor.

The selectivity for A<sub>2</sub> receptors was evaluated by comparing the affinities of each compound for A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> receptors. A marked relationship between binding affinities and physiological effects modulated by adenosine receptors has been demonstrated elsewhere (Conti et al., Naunyn-Schmied. Arch. Pharmacol., 1993, 348,108-112).

The disclosed compounds, described in formula I, 20 have marked A<sub>2</sub> receptor affinity with K<sub>i</sub> values ranging from 1 nM to 100 nM (Table). Moreover, some compounds show A<sub>2</sub> versus A<sub>1</sub> selectivity higher than that of the reference compounds CGS 15943 and 8FB-PTP. In particular, compound 341 has a selectivity for A<sub>2</sub> 25 versus A<sub>1</sub> receptors of about 50-fold.

Rat aorta and bovine coronary artery

The A<sub>2</sub> adenosine antagonistic activity of these compounds was investigated by evaluating their ability to counteract vasodilation induced by adenosine 30 agonists in vascular tissues, such as rat aorta and bovine coronary arteries, after precontraction with 3 $\mu$ M

of prostaglandin F<sub>2</sub> $\alpha$ . The method used to test adenosine agonists is described elsewhere (Conti et al., Naunyn-Schmied. Arch. Pharmacol., 1993, 348, 108-112). Cumulative dose-response curves were constructed, 5 using increasing concentration of NECA (1 nM-10  $\mu$ M), in the absence or presence of the antagonist.

Many of the test compounds, at concentrations ranging from 0.03 to 1 $\mu$ M, were able to shift to the right the dose-response curves of the agonist in a 10 concentration-dependent manner.

Rat atria

The ability of the disclosed compounds to antagonize the negative chronotropic effect induced by A<sub>1</sub> receptor agonists was tested on isolated rat atria, 15 whose beating rate is known to be modulated by A<sub>1</sub> adenosine receptors. The method used to test adenosine agonists is described elsewhere (Conti et al., Naunyn-Schmied. Arch. Pharmacol., 1993, 348, 108-112). The decrease in atrial rate evoked by cumulative 20 addition of the A<sub>1</sub> selective agonist, 2-chloro-N<sup>6</sup>-cyclopentyladenosine (CCPA) was measured. The dose-response curves of the agonist was then repeated in the presence of the antagonist. The receptor selectivity of test compounds can be evaluated by comparing the 25 activities of each compound in antagonizing either A<sub>2</sub> (vasodilation)- or A<sub>1</sub> (heart rate)-mediated responses.

Some of the disclosed compounds were found to have little or no effects on the A<sub>1</sub>-mediated response in 30 isolated rat atria. In particular, compound 341 is ineffective in this functional model, thus confirming

its  $A_2$  versus  $A_1$  selectivity observed from binding studies.

IN VIVO TESTS

Behavioral effects

5        The behavioral response to treatment with different doses (ranging from 1 to 100 mg/Kg) of the test compounds administered parenterally were evaluated in Swiss mice using the classic "Irwin test" (Irwin, Psychopharmacologia, 1968 13, 222-257). Behavior, 10      autonomic and neurological functions of the animals were assessed through 36 different parameters evaluated during observation sessions at 1, 2, 4 and 6 h after drug administration. The animals were observed until 24 h after administration for checking mortality.

15       The test compounds produced no mortality and only tended to stimulate central nervous system activity.

Hemodynamic tests

20       In adult male spontaneously hypertensive rats, some of the disclosed compounds were administered parenterally at increasing doses (1-30 mg/Kg) and their ability in antagonizing the bradycardic and hypotensive effects induced by  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  adenosine receptor agonists, respectively, was measured. Systolic blood pressure and heart rate were measured in conscious 25      animals by the tail-cuff method as described elsewhere (Monopoli et al., Arch. Int. Pharmacodyn. Ther., 1987, 286, 246-254).

30       The test compounds antagonize hypotension induced by  $A_2$  agonists with a potency similar or higher than that of the reference compounds CGS 15943 and 8FB-PTP, whereas some of them antagonize the

$A_1$ -mediated responses slightly and only at higher doses.

TABLE - BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY OF A SERIES OF NEW  $A_2$  ADENOSINE RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS

5

	Compound	Binding <sup>a</sup>		Selectivity $A_1/A_2$
		$A_1$	$A_2$	
	N°	Ki (nM)		
10	DCPCX	1.5	727	0.002
	CGS 15943	6.4	1.2	5.3
	8FB-PTP	3.3	1.2	2.8
	N° 292	237	9.0	26.3
	N° 294	31.2	2.4	13.0
15	N° SP 319	120	12.6	9.5
	N° SP 320	5.8	1.9	3.1
	N° SP 340	61.5	13.8	4.4
	N° SP 341	123	2.4	51.3
	N° SP 363	18.6	2.6	7.2
20	N° SP 375	4.7	1.5	3.2
	N° SP 376	42.6	7.1	6.0

<sup>a</sup>Inhibition of [<sup>3</sup>H]CHA binding ( $A_1$ ) in rat whole brain homogenates or [<sup>3</sup>H]CGS 21680 binding ( $A_2$ ) in rat striatal homogenates.

- **DPCPX** (8-cyclopentyl-1,3-dipropylxanthine) is a standard  $A_1$  selective antagonist (Bruns et al., Naunyn-Schmied. Arch. Pharmacol., 1987, 335, 59-63).
- 30 - **CGS 15943** (5-amino-9-chloro-2-(2-furyl)1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]quinazoline is a reference slightly selective  $A_2$  antagonist (Francis et al., 1988, J.

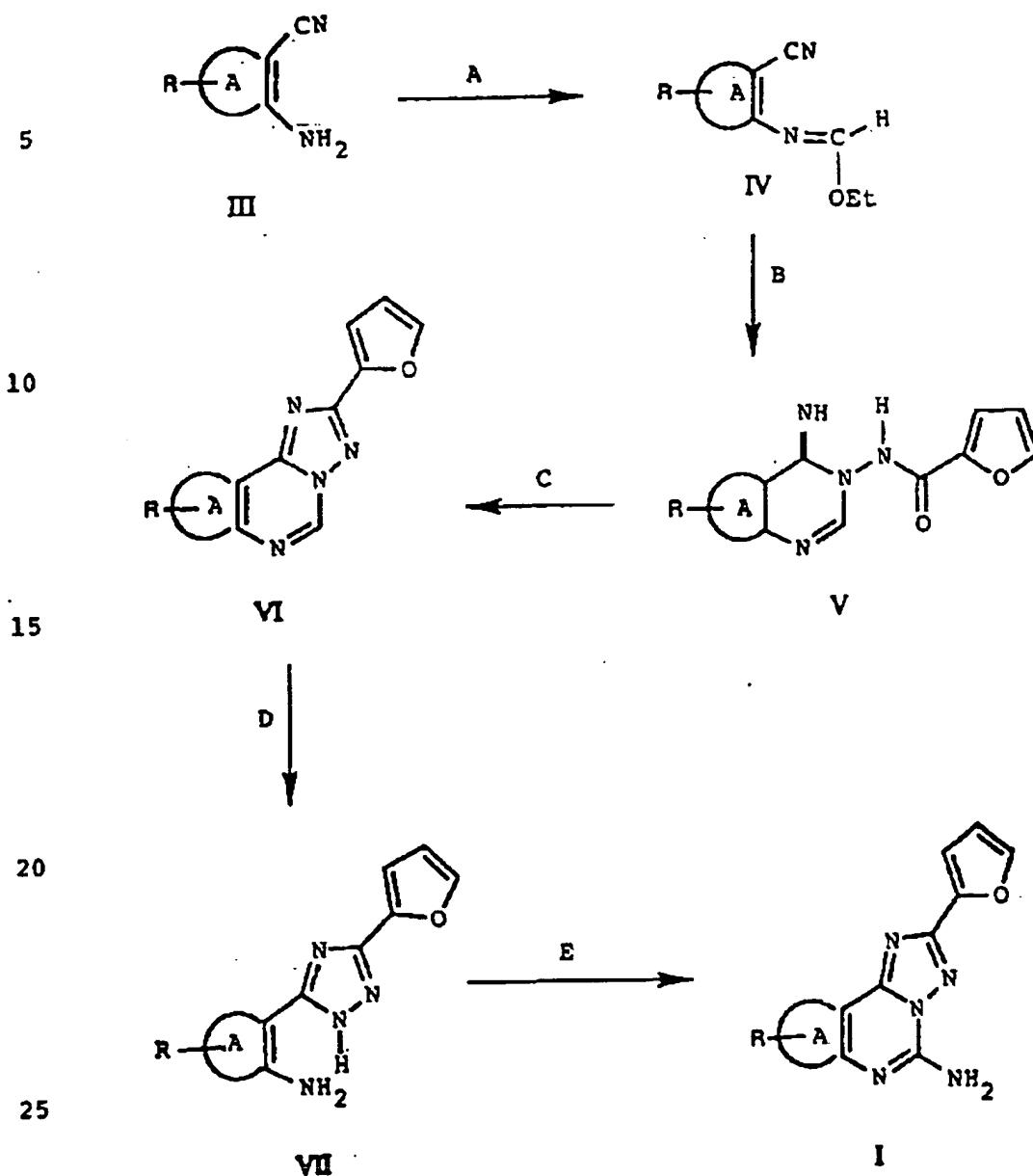
Med. Chem., 31, 1014-1020).

8FB-PTP (5-amino-8-(4-fluorobenzyl)-2-(2-furyl)-  
pyrazolo[4,3-4e]-1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine)  
is a reference slightly selective A2 antagonist  
5 (Gatta et al., Eur. J. Med. Chem., 1993, 28, 569-  
576).

For the envisaged therapeutical uses, compounds I  
will be formulated as suitable pharmaceutical composi-  
tions, which can be administered, for example, by the  
10 oral, parenteral or transdermal routes, using known  
techniques and excipients, as described for example in  
Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences Handbook, Mack Pub.  
Co., NY, USA, XVII ed. The daily dosage will depend, of  
course, on many factors (severity of the pathology to  
15 treat, patient conditions, toxicology and pharmacokine-  
tic of the selected compound) but generally it will  
range from 0,01 to 10 mg/kg body weight, preferably  
from 0,1 to 1 mg/kg, optionally subdivided in more ad-  
ministrations. Examples of pharmaceutical compositions  
20 comprise capsules, tablets, solutions, syrups, vials,  
controlled-release forms, transdermal forms (cerotti)  
and the like.

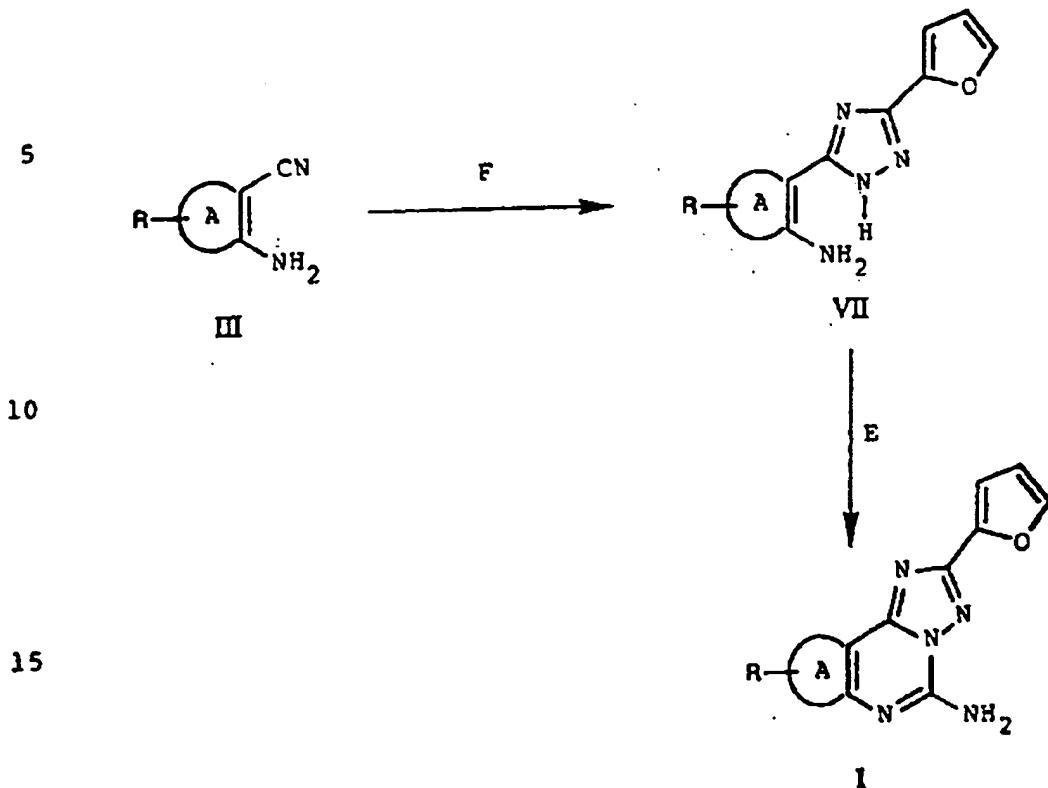
The compounds of the invention were prepared ac-  
cording to the synthetic schemes reported below.

### Scheme\_I



Reagents: A) triethyl orthoformate; B) 2-furoic acid hydrazide, 2-methoxyethanol; C) PhOPh, 260°C; D) 10% HCl, under reflux; E) cyanamide, pTsOB, N-methylpyrrolidone

**Scheme II**



20 Reagents: F) furoic acid hydrazide, diphenylether; E)  
cyanamide, pTsOH, N-methylpyrrolidone.

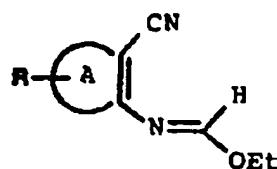
The compounds of formula I of the invention can be prepared through either an indirect route described in Scheme I or a direct route described in Scheme II.

25            Suitable starting materials for both schemes are  
the heterocyclic ortho-amino nitriles of formula III,  
generally prepared according to synthetic procedures  
known in literature and reported in the book by  
E.C.Taylor and A.McKillop (vol. 7 of the series Advan-  
30    ces in Organic Chemistry, Ed. Interscience, 1970).

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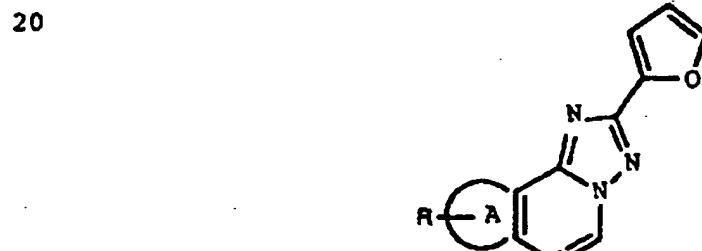


Ortho-amino nitriles III are transformed into the  
 5 corresponding imidates of formula IV by reaction with  
 an ethyl orthoformate excess at the reflux temperature  
 for 8-10h. The reaction, after evaporation of the ethyl  
 orthoformate, leads to the substantially pure corre-  
 sponding imidates IV in a high yield as evidenced by  
 10 the IR and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR analysis on the crude reaction pro-  
 ducts.



IV

The imidates of formula IV are then subjected to a  
 sequence of two reactions allowing to obtain the tricy-  
 clic structures of formula VI in a high yield.



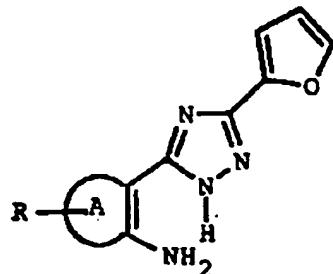
VI

The reaction sequence comprises: a) reaction with  
 2-furoic acid hydrazide in a 2-methoxyethanol solution  
 at the reflux temperature for 8-10h, to obtain the in-  
 30 termediates compounds of formula V; b) thermal cycliza-  
 tion of the latter to corresponding compounds of for-

mula VI, by heating in diphenyl ether at the temperature of 260°C for 0.5-1h.

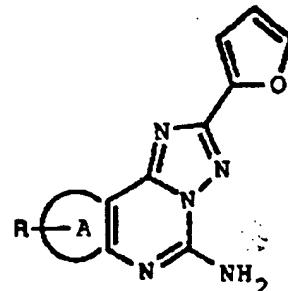
The tricyclic compounds VI are then hydrolyzed with 10% HCl at the reflux temperature for 1-3h to give triazoles VII, which are finally cyclized to desired compounds I with cyanamide in N-methyl pyrrolidone at the reflux temperature and in the presence of para-toluenesulfonic acid (Scheme I).

10



15

VII

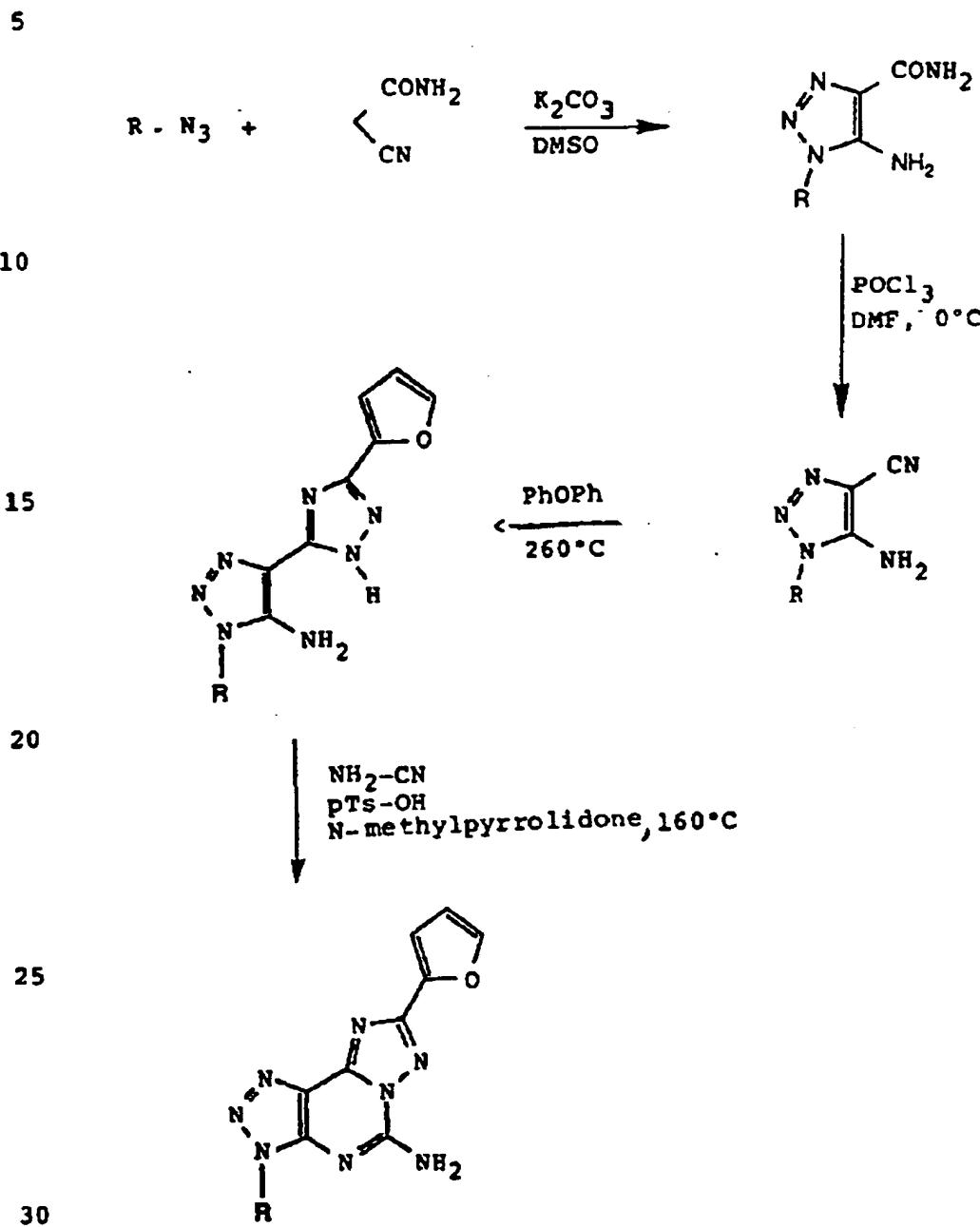


I

In some cases, triazoles VII can be obtained directly heating in diphenyl ether ortho-amino nitriles III with 2-furoic acid hydrazide. Triazoles VII are then cyclized as described above (Scheme II). In the following schemes III, IV and V, the synthesis of the compounds I in which A is a triazole ring is reported in more detail.

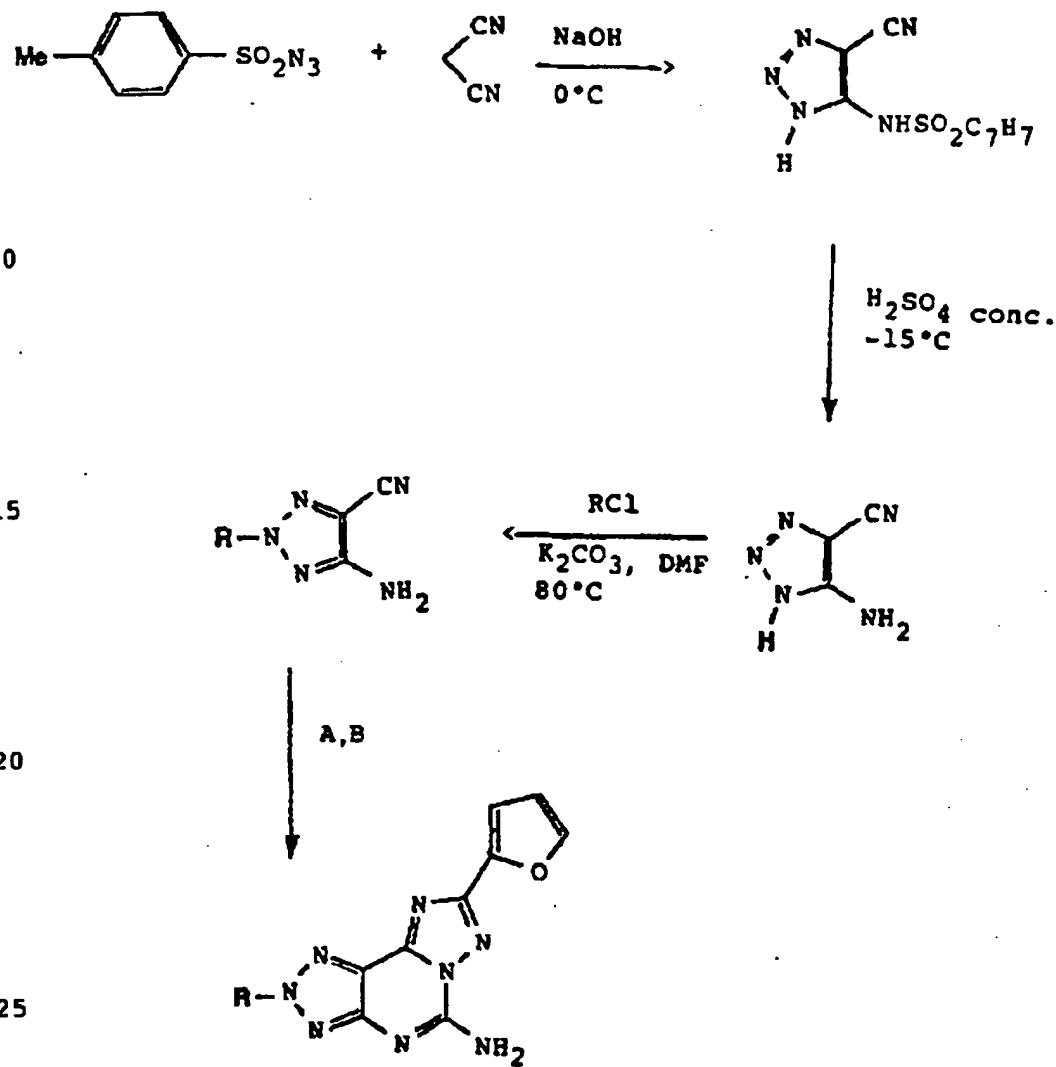
**Scheme III**

# Synthesis of 5-amino-7-substituted-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine derivatives



**Scheme IV**

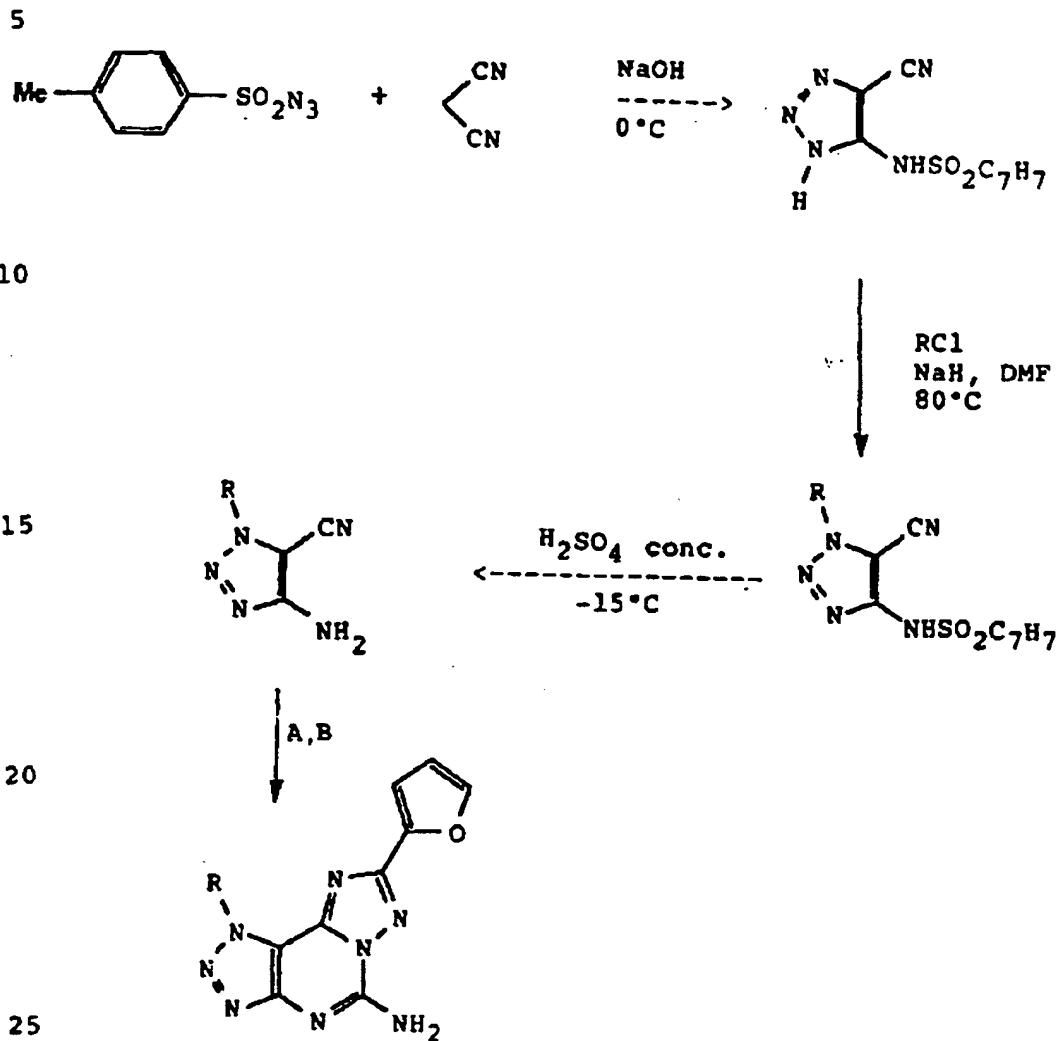
# Synthesis of 5-amino-8-substituted-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine derivatives



30 Reagents: A) furoic acid hydrazide, PhOPh, 260°C, B)  
 $\text{NH}_2\text{CN}$ , pTsOH, N-methylpyrrolidone.

Scheme V

Synthesis of 5-amino-9-substituted-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine derivatives



30 Reagents: A) furoic acid hydrazide, PhOPh, 260°C, B)  
 $\text{NH}_2\text{CN}$ , pTsOH, N-methylpyrrolidone.

The following examples illustrate the invention in more detail.

Example 1

According to the procedures described in J. Org. Chem. 1956, 21, 1240; J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1956, 78, 784 and the references herein cited, the following compounds are prepared, starting from commercially available ethoxy-methylene malondinitrile and N1-substituted hydrazines, which also are mainly commercially available:

1-methyl-4-cyano-5-aminopyrazole  
1-n-butyl-4-cyano-5-aminopyrazole  
1-isopentyl-4-cyano-5-aminopyrazole  
1-(2-cyclopentyl)ethyl-4-cyano-5-aminopyrazole  
1-hydroxyethyl-4-cyano-5-aminopyrazole  
1-phenyl-4-cyano-5-aminopyrazole  
1-tert-butyl-4-cyano-5-aminopyrazole  
1-phenylethyl-4-cyano-5-aminopyrazole  
1-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-cyano-5-aminopyrazole.

Example 2

Starting from 4-cyano-5-aminopyrazole, prepared according the procedure reported in Chem. Pharm. Bull. 1970, 18, 2353 or in J. Heterocyclic Chem. 1979, 16, 1113, 1-substituted 4-cyano-3-aminopyrazoles can be prepared by direct alkylation with the corresponding alkyl halide in dimethylformamide at 80°C for 1-2h in the presence of anhydrous potassium carbonate. From the reaction mixture, containing the two N<sub>1</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> alkylated position isomers in an about 1:2 ratio, the N<sub>2</sub> isomer can be isolated by a single crystallization or column chromatography on silica gel eluting with

ethyl acetate and petroleum ether mixtures. Using said procedures, the following compounds were prepared:

1-methyl-4-cyano-3-aminopyrazole

1-butyl-4-cyano-3-aminopyrazole

5 1-benzyl-4-cyano-3-aminopyrazole

1-isopentyl-4-cyano-3-aminopyrazole

1-phenylethyl-4-cyano-3-aminopyrazole

Example 3

10 a) A suspension of anhydrous potassium carbonate (30 mmols) in DMF (50 ml) is added with 3-amino-4-cyano-pyrazole (20 mmols), heating to a temperature of 80°C for 30 minutes. The suspension is added with phenethyl bromide (25 mmols) and is heated to 80°C for 2h. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture is evaporated to dryness under vacuum and the resulting residue is taken up with distilled water (100 ml) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 50 ml). The combined organic extracts are dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and evaporated to dryness under vacuum.

15 20 The resulting residue consists of a 1:3 mixture of 1-phenylethyl-4-cyano-5-aminopyrazole (20%) and of 1-phenylethyl-4-cyano-3-aminopyrazole (60%) which may be used as such in Example 4 or chromatographed on silica gel column eluting with an ethyl acetate/hexane mixture 25 to give:

1-phenylethyl-4-cyano-5-aminopyrazole m.p. 172-173°C;  
(20%);

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (DMSO- $\text{d}_6$ ): 3.04 (t, 2H); 4.12 (t, 2H); 5.85 (sb,

2H); 7.21-7.30 (m, 5H); 7.41 (s, 1H); e 1-8-

30 phenylethyl-4-cyano-3-aminopyrazole m.p. 98-100°C  
(60%);  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 3.07 (t, 2H); 4.10 (t, 2H); 4.23

(sb, 2H); 7.17 (s, 1H); 7.00-7.28 (m, 5H).

b) A solution of 1- $\beta$ -phenylethyl-4-cyano-5-aminopyrazole (20 mmol) in triethylorthofomate (40 ml) is refluxed under nitrogen for 8 h.

5 The excess orthofomate is evaporated to dryness under vacuum and the residual yellow oil is dissolved in ethyl ether and percolated onto silica gel to give the corresponding iminoether (87% yield). The residue obtained after orthofomate evaporation is practically 10 pure and is directly used in the following step. A solution of the iminoether (20 mmol) and of 2-furoic acid hydrazide (2.5 g, 22 mmol) in 2-methoxyethanol (50 ml) is refluxed for 5-10 h. After cooling, the solution is evaporated to dryness to give an oily residue which 15 is subjected to thermal cyclization in diphenylether (50 ml) using a Dean-Stark apparatus so as to azeotropically remove water formed during the reaction. After 1.5 h, the reaction is checked in TLC (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether 2:1) and when the starting 20 compound is completely absent, the mixture is cooled and added with hexane. The resulting precipitate is filtered and crystallized to give 7-( $\beta$ -phenylethyl)-2(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]1,2,4-triazole[1,5-c]pyrimidine m.p. 174-175°C (20%) 1H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 3.23 (t, 2H); 4.74 (t, 2H); 6.75 (s, 1H); 7.14-7.17 (m, 5H); 7.28 (s, 25 1H); 7.98 (s, 1H); 8.53 (s, 1H); 9.56 (s, 1H).

In a similar way, starting from 1- $\beta$ -phenylethyl-4-cyano-3-aminopyrazole, 8-( $\beta$ -phenylethyl)-2(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]1,2,4-triazole[1,5-c]pyrimidine m.p. 30 268-270°C (60%) 1H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 3.32 (t, 2H); 4.72 (t, 2H); 6.73 (s, 1H); 7.23 (m, 5H); 7.95 (s, 1H); 8.8

(s, 1H); 9.41 (s, 1H) is obtained.

c) A suspension of a compound VI of step b) (10 mmol) in 10% HCl (5.0 ml) is refluxed under stirring for 3 h. After cooling, the solution is alkalized with 5 concentrated ammonium hydroxide at 0°C and the resulting precipitate is filtered or extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 100 ml), dried and evaporated to dryness under vacuum, to give the corresponding 1-(8-phenylethyl)-4-[3(2-furyl)-1,2,4-triazol-5-yl]-5-amino-pyrazole m.p. 175-176°C;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (DMSO- $d_6$ ): 3.15 (t, 2H); 4.48 (t, 2H); 5.78 (s, 1H), 6.37 (s, 1H); 6.68 (s, 1H); 7.1 (s, 1H); 7.27-7.28 (m, 5H); 7.82 (s, 1H); 14.51 (sb, 2H); in a similar way 1-(8-phenylethyl)-4-[3(2-furyl)-1,2,4-triazol-5-yl]-3-aminopyrazole (m.p. 205-206°C);  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (DMSO- $d_6$ ): 3.12 (t, 2H); 4.46 (t, 2H); 5.75 (s, 1H); 14.41 (sb, 2H) is obtained.

d) Cyanamide (60 mmol) is added to a suspension of an amine of formula VII prepared in step c) (10 mmol) in N-methylpyrrolidone (40 ml) followed by p-toluensulfonic acid (15 mmol).

The mixture is heated to 160°C under stirring. After 4 h a second portion of cyanamide (60 mmol) is added and heating is continued overnight. The mixture is then treated with hot water (200 ml) and the precipitate is 25 filtered, washed with water and crystallized from ethanol to give the corresponding 5-amino-7-(8-phenylethyl)-2-(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]-1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine m.p. 225-226°C  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (DMSO- $d_6$ ): 3.21 (t, 2H); 4.51 (t, 2H); 6.65 (s, 1H); 7.1-7.44 (m, 5H, arom and 1H); 7.78 (s, 1H); 7.89 (sb, 2H); 8.07 (s, 1H) (Compound 341); in a similar way 5-amino-8-(8-

5-phenylethyl)-2-(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]-1,2,4-triazo-  
le[1,5-c]pyrimidine m.p. 212-213°C 1H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  
3.21 (t, 2H); 4.53 (t, 2H); 6.7 (s, 1H); 7.1-7.4 (m,  
5H, arom and 1H); 7.65 (sb, 2H); 7.93 (s, 1H); 8.45 (s,  
1H) (Compound 375) is obtained.

Example 4

10 A suspension of potassium carbonate (0.23 mole) in DMSO (70 ml) is added subsequently with cyanoacetamide (70 mmols) and p-fluorobenzylazide (54.5 mmols). The resulting solution is stirred at room temperature for 1h and then poured into a large volume of water (1.5 l). The separated solid is filtered, washed with water and dried in oven at 70°C to give 1(p-fluorobenzyl)-4-carboxamido-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole (96% yield).

15 M.p.: 198-199°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 7.5-7.1 (m, 6H); 6.4 (s, 2H); 5.4 (s, 2H).

20 An amide suspension (0.005 mole), stirred and cooled to 0°C, in DMF (5 ml) is added with phosphorous oxychloride (0.01 mole). The resulting solution is stirred for 5 minutes at 0°C, 10 minutes at 25°C and 15 minutes at 80°C. After cooling to room temperature, 5 ml of N HCl are added and the mixture is refluxed for 5 minutes. 1(p-Fluorobenzyl)-4-cyano-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole separates from the cooled solution (90% yield).

25 M.p. 185-186°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 7.3-7.0 (m, 6H); 5.5 (s, 2H); IR (KBr) : 3400, 3220, 2220, 1655 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

Analogously, the following compounds were prepared:

1- or 2-benzyl-4-cyano-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole

30 1- or 2-(o-fluorobenzyl)-4-cyano-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole

1- or 2-(p-fluorobenzyl)-4-cyano-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole

1- or 2-butyl-4-cyano-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole  
1- or 2-isopentyl-4-cyano-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole  
1- or 2-(2-methoxyethyl)-4-cyano-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole  
1- or 2-heptyl-4-cyano-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole  
5 1- or 2-octyl-4-cyano-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole.

Example 5

The preparation of ethoxymethyleneamino heterocycles of formula IV is performed refluxing the respective ortho-aminonitrile with ethyl orthoformate. By way 10 of example, the preparation of 4-cyano-5-(ethoxymethyleneamino)-1-butylypyrazole is reported.

A solution of 4-cyano-5-amino-1-butylypyrazole (20 mmols) in triethyl orthoformate (40 ml) is heated to the reflux temperature under nitrogen atmosphere for 15 8h. The orthoformate excess is evaporated to dryness under vacuum and the residual yellow oil is dissolved in ethyl ether and eluted through silica gel to give the pure compound (87% yield). In many cases, the residue obtained after evaporation of the orthoformate is 20 substantially pure and is used as such in the subsequent step.

IR (nujol): 3140, 2240, 1640 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 8.4 (s, 1H); 7.9 (s, 1H); 4.5 (t, 2H); 4.3 (q, 2H); 1.8 (m, 2H); 1.5 (m, 2H); 1.4 (t, 3H); 0.9 (t, 3H).

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Example 6

A solution of the ethoxymethyleneamino heterocycle (20 mmols) and 2-furoic acid hydrazide (2.5 g, 22 mmols) in 2-methoxyethanol (50 ml) is refluxed for 5-30 10h. After cooling, the solution is evaporated to dryness to obtain a residual oil which is subjected to thermal cyclization in diphenyl ether (50 ml) using a

round-bottom flask fitted with a Dean-Stark apparatus, to remove azeotropically the water formed during the reaction. After varying times (3-5h) the reaction is checked by TLC (2:1 ethyl acetate:petroleum ether) and 5 when the whole starting product has disappeared, the mixture is cooled and added with hexane. The resulting precipitate is filtered and crystallized from the suitable solvent. In some cases, from the solution a viscous oil separates which is decanted and subsequently 10 extracted. The oily residue is then chromatographed on silica gel, eluting with ethyl acetate/petroleum ether mixtures, to give the tricyclic compound VI.

By way of examples, the analytical and spectroscopic 15 characteristics of some compounds prepared by these procedures are reported:

7-butyl-2(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine.  
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 9.6 (s,1H); 8.6 (s,1H); 8.0 (m,1H); 7.4 (m,1H); 6.7 (m,1H); 4.5 (t,2H); 1.9 (m,2H); 1.3 20 (m,2H); 0.9 (t,3H).

8-butyl-2(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine.  
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 9.4 (s,1H); 8.9 (s,1H); 8.0 (m,1H); 7.3 (m,1H); 6.2 (m,1H); 4.5 (t,2H); 1.9 (m,2H); 1.3 25 (m,2H); 0.9 (m,3H). In the 2D-NMR (NOESY) spectrum, the N-CH<sub>2</sub> signal resonating at 4.5 shows cross peaks with the C9-H signal resonating at 8.9.

7-isopentyl-2(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine.  
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) : 9.1 (s,1H); 8.8 (s,1H); 7.7 (m,1H); 7.3 (m,1H); 6.6 (m,1H); 4.6 (t,2H); 1.18-1.7 (m,3H); 30

1.0 (d, 6H).

8-isopentyl-2(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]1,2,4-triazo-  
zolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine.  
9.1 (s, 1H); 8.8 (s, 1H); 7.7 (m, 1H); 7.3 (m, 1H); 6.6  
5 (m, 1H); 4.6 (t, 2H); 1.9-1.5 (m, 3H); 1.0 (d, 6H).

Following this procedure, the following compounds  
were prepared:

7-methyl-2(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-  
c]pyrimidine

10 8-methyl-2(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-  
c]pyrimidine

7-(2-chlorophenyl)-2(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]1,2,4-  
triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine

7-phenylethyl-2(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]1,2,4-tria-  
15 zolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine

7-tert-butyl-2(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]1,2,4-tria-  
zolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine

7-(2-cyclopentyl)ethyl-2(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]1,2,4-  
triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine

20 8-benzyl-2(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-  
c]pyrimidine

7-benzyl-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-tria-  
zolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine

7-(2-fluorobenzyl)-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-  
e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine

25 7-(4-fluorobenzyl)-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-  
e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine

7-butyl-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-tria-  
zolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine

30 7-isopentyl-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-tria-  
zolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine

7-(2-methoxy)ethyl-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine  
7-heptyl-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine  
5 7-octyl-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine  
8-benzyl-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine  
8-(2-fluorobenzyl)-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine  
10 8-isopentyl-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine  
8-hexyl-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine  
8-heptyl-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine  
15 8-butyl-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine  
8-isopentyl-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine  
8-hexyl-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine  
8-heptyl-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine  
20 8-octyl-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine  
9-benzyl-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[4,5-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine  
9-(2-fluorobenzyl)-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[4,5-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine  
25 9-(4-fluorobenzyl)-2(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[4,5-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine

Example 7

30 The compounds of formula VII were prepared according to two methods:

a) by hydrolysis of compounds of formula VI with diluted hydrochloric acid;

b) by thermal cyclization of heterocyclic ortho-amino-nitriles of formula III with 2-furoic acid hydrazide in

5 diphenyl ether at a temperature of 260°C .

A) a suspension of the tricyclic compound VI (10 mmols) in 10% HCl (50 ml) is heated to the reflux temperature under stirring for 3h. After cooling, the mixture is alkalinized with concentrated ammonium hydroxide at 0°C

10 and the resulting precipitate is recovered by filtration or extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 100 ml), dried and evaporated to dryness under vacuum.

The residue is purified by either crystallization from the suitable solvents or chromatographed over a

15 silica gel column eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether.

1-t-butyl-4-[3(2-furyl)-1,2,4-triazol-5-yl]-4-amino-pyrazole

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 13.9 (sb,1H); 7.8 (s,1H); 7.7 (s,1H);

20 6.9 (m,1H); 6.6 (s,1H); 6.1 (s,2H); 1.6 (s,9H).

B) A suspension of the heterocyclic ortho-amino-nitriles (20 mmols) and 2-furoic acid hydrazide (22 mmols)

in diphenyl ether (30 ml) is stirred and heated to reflux (260°C) with a Dean-Stark apparatus until the

25 starting compound has disappeared (TLC, 1-2h). After cooling, the mixture is diluted with petroleum ether and the resulting precipitate is either filtered or separated by decantation and chromatographed on a silica gel column eluting with 2:1 ethyl acetate and petroleum ether.

30 1-p-fluorobenzyl-4[3(2-furyl)-1,2,4-triazol-5-yl]-5-

amino-1,2,3-triazole:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 14.5 (s,1H); 7.8 (s,1H); 7.4-7.1 (m,5H); 6.6 (s,1H); 6.5 (s,2H); 5.5 (s,2H).

Example 8

5 A suspension of the amines of formula VII (10 mmols) in N-methyl-pyrrolidone (40 ml) is added with cyanamide (60 mmols) followed by p-toluenesulfonic acid (15 mmols). The mixture is heated to 160°C with magnetic stirring. After 4h, a second portion of cyanamide 10 (60 mmols) is added and heating is continued overnight. The mixture is then treated with hot water (200 ml) and the precipitated solid is filtered, washed with water and crystallized from ethanol. If no precipitations take place, the solution is extracted with ethyl acetate (4 x 100 ml), the extracts are washed with brine (2 x 50 ml), dried and evaporated to dryness under vacuum. The residue is then chromatographed on a silica 15 gel column eluting with ethyl acetate.

In the following, the analytical and spectroscopic 20 data of some compounds prepared by this procedure are reported:

5-amino-7-butyl-2-(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]-1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine (Compound 292).

M.p. 157-158°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 8.1 (s,1H); 8.0 (s,2H); 7.9 (m,1H); 7.2 (m,1H); 6.7 (m,1H); 4.2 (t,2H); 1.9 (m,2H); 1.5 (m,2H); 0.9 (t,3H).

5-amino-8-butyl-2-(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]-1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine (Compound 294).

M.p. 183-185°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 8.6 (s,1H); 8.0 (s,1H); 7.6 (s,2H); 7.2 (m,1H); 6.7 (m,1H); 4.2 (t,2H); 1.8 (m,2H); 1.2 (m,2H); 0.9 (t,3H).

5-amino-7-benzyl-2-(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]-  
1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine.  
M.p. 295-297°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO- $\text{d}_6$ ): 8.5 (s,2H); 8.0  
(s,1H); 7.3 (m,6H); 6.7 (m,1H); 5.7 (s,2H).

5 5-amino-7-o-fluoro-benzyl-2-(2-furyl)-1,2,3-tria-  
zolo[5,4-e]-1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine  
M.p. 310-312°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO- $\text{d}_6$ ): 8.5 (s,2H); 8.0  
(s,1H); 7.3 (m,5H); 6.8 (s,1H); 5.75 (s,2H).

10 5-amino-7-methyl-2-(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]-1,2,4-  
triazolo-[1,5-c]pyrimidine; m.p. 210-213°C  
5-amino-7-tert-butyl-2-(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]-1,2,4-  
triazolo-[1,5-c]pyrimidine; m.p. 238-240°C  
5-amino-2-(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]-1,2,4-triazolo-  
[1,5-c]pyrimidine; m.p. 248-250°C

15 5-amino-7-(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]-  
1,2,4-triazolo-[1,5-c]pyrimidine; m.p. 258-260°C  
5-amino-7-phenyl-2-(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]-1,2,4-  
triazolo-[1,5-c]pyrimidine; m.p. 295-297°C  
5-amino-7-isopentyl-2-(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]-1,2,4-  
triazolo-[1,5-c]pyrimidine; m.p. 208-210°C (Compound  
20 319).

5-amino-8-isopentyl-2-(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]-1,2,4-  
triazolo-[1,5-c]pyrimidine; m.p. 200-203°C (Compound  
320).

25 5-amino-7-phenethyl-2-(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]-1,2,4-  
-triazolo-[1,5-c]pyrimidine; m.p. 225°C (Compound 341).  
5-amino-7 $\beta$ -benzyloxyethyl-2-(2-furyl)-pyrazolo[4,3-e]-  
1,2,4-triazolo-[1,5-c]pyrimidine.  
5-amino-7-[8-(4-isobutylphenethyl)]-2-(2-furyl)-pyra-  
zole[4,3-e]-1,2,4-triazole[1,5-c]pyrimidine m.p. 207-  
210°C.

Example 9

A suspension of sodium azide (0.23 mole, 15 g) and p-fluorobenzyl chloride (0.15 mole, 18.8 ml) in absolute ethanol (45 ml) is stirred and heated to reflux 5 overnight. After cooling, the suspension is poured into water (200 ml) and from the solution an oil separates which is extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 100 ml), dried over sodium sulfate and evaporated under vacuum with a bath temperature below 35°C. The residue (20 g, 10 90%) is used directly in the subsequent step, after IR checking for the presence of the characteristic band of the azido group at 2140 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

Analogously, starting from  $\alpha$ -phenylethanol tosylate in DMF, the 1- $\alpha$ -phenethylazide is obtained.

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Example 10

p-Fluorobenzylazide (15.1 g, 0.1 mole) and cyanacetamide (10.8 g, 0.13 moles) are added in this order to a suspension of powdered potassium carbonate (57.5 g, 0.42 mole) in dimethylsulfoxide (150 ml).

20

The mixture is stirred at room temperature for 1h. The mixture is poured into 3 l of water and the solid which separates is filtered and washed thoroughly with water to give 22.47 g (96%) of 1-p-fluorobenzyl-4-carboxamido-5-amino 1,2,3-triazole.

25

M.p.: 198-199°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 7.5-7.1 (m, 6H); 6.4 (s, 2H); 5.4 (s, 2H).

Analogously, 2-fluoro-6-chlorobenzyl-4-carbossamide-5-amino 1,2,3-triazole; m.p. 230-231°C; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 5.40 (s, 2H); 6.52 (sb, 2H); 7.12-7.45 (m, 5H).

30

3-fluorobenzyl-4-carboxamido-5-amino 1,2,3-triazole; m.p. 211-211°C <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 5.46 (s, 2H); 6.47

(sb, 2H); 7.00-7.52 (m, 6H).

2-fluorobenzyl-4-carboxamido-5-amino 1,2,3-triazole;

m.p. 195-197°C.

1-( $\beta$ -phenylethyl)-4-carboxamido-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole;

5 m.p. 181-183°C;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (DMSO- $d_6$ ): 3.04 (t, 2H); 4.35 (t, 2H); 6.30 (sb, 2H); 7.20-7.47 (m, 7H) are obtained.

Example 11

A suspension of 1-p-fluorobenzyl-4-carboxamido-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole (23.4 g, 0.1 mole) in DMF (100 ml), magnetically stirred at 0°C, is added with 20.8 ml (0.2 mole) of  $\text{POCl}_3$ . The solution is stirred for 5' at 0°C, 10' at room temperature and finally 15' at 80°C. After cooling, N HCl (100 ml) is added thereto and the resulting solution is refluxed for 5'; upon cooling 1-p-fluorobenzyl-4-cyano-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole (18.54 g, 90%) precipitates. M.p. 185-186°C;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (DMSO- $d_6$ ): 7.3-7.0 (m, 6H); 5.5 (s, 2H); IR (KBr): 3400, 3220, 2220, 1655  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

Analogously, the following compounds are obtained:

20 2-fluoro-6-chlorobenzyl-4-cyano-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole;  
m.p. 181-185°C  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (DMSO- $d_6$ ): 5.40 (s, 2H); 7.26-7.50 (m, 5H).

25 3-fluorobenzyl-4-cyano-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole; m.p. 195-197°C  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (DMSO- $d_6$ ): 5.44 (s, 2H); 7.00-7.43 (m, 6H).

2-fluorobenzyl-4-cyano-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole; m.p.: 195-197°C.

1-( $\beta$ -phenylethyl)-4-cyano-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole; m.p.

30 149-150°C  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (DMSO- $d_6$ ): 3.04 (t, 2H), 4.36 (t, 2H);

7.03 (sb, 2H); 7.23-7.28 (m, 5H).

Example 12

A suspension of 1-p-fluorobenzyl-4-cyano-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole (20 mmols) and 2-furoic acid hydrazide (22 mmols) in diphenyl ether (30 ml) is stirred and heated to reflux (260°C) with a Dean-Stark apparatus until the starting compound disappears (TLC, 1-2h). After cooling, the mixture is diluted with petroleum ether and the resulting precipitate is either filtered or separated by decantation and chromatographed on a silica gel column eluting with 2:1 ethyl acetate and petroleum ether.

1-p-fluorobenzyl-4[3(2-furyl)-1,2,4-triazol-5-yl]-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole; m.p. 266-268°C  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 14.5 (s, 1H); 7.8 (s, 1H); 7.4-7.1 (m, 5H); 6.6 (s, 1H); 15 6.5 (s, 2H); 5.5 (s, 2H). Analogously, the 1-(6-phenylethyl)-4[3(2-furyl)-1,2,4-triazol-5-yl]-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole (50%); m.p. 200-202°C  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 3.07 (t, 2H); 4.16 (t, 2H); 5.50 (sb, 2H); 6.61 (s, 1H); 6.95 (s, 1H); 7.2-7.4 (m, 5H); 7.78 (s, 1H); 13.8 20 (sb, 1H) is obtained.

Example 13

A suspension of 1-p-fluorobenzyl-4[3(2-furyl)-1,2,4-triazol-5-yl]-5-amino-1,2,3-triazole (0.325 g, 1 mmols) in N-methyl-pyrrolidone (4 ml) is added with cyanamide (6 mmols) followed by p-toluenesulfonic acid (1.5 mmols). The mixture is heated at 160°C with magnetic stirring. After 4h, a second portion of cyanamide (6 mmols) is added and heating is continued overnight. The mixture is then treated with hot water (20 ml) and 25 the precipitated solid is filtered, washed with water and crystallized from ethanol. If no precipitations 30

take place, the solution is extracted with ethyl acetate (4 x 10 ml), the extracts are washed with brine (2 x 5 ml), dried and evaporated to dryness under vacuum. The residue is then chromatographed on a silica gel column eluting with ethyl acetate to give 105 mg (30% yield) of 5-amino-7-p-fluoro-benzyl-2-(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine  
5 M.p.: 266-268°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) : 8.5 (s, 2H); 7.95 (s, 1H); 7.4-7.1 (m, 6H); 6.7 (s, 1H); 5.7 (s, 2H)  
10 (Compound 340).

Analogously, were obtained:

5-amino-7-o-fluorobenzyl-2-(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine; m.p. 310°C.  
5-amino-7-benzyl-2-(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]-  
15 1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine; m.p. 295-7°C.  
5-amino-7-(2-fluoro-6-chlorobenzyl)-2-(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine; m.p.  
218-220°C;  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 8.51 (s, 2H); 7.98 (s, 1H); 7.55-7.28 (m, 4H); 6.77 (s, 1H); 5.73 (s, 2H).  
20 5-amino-7-(m-fluorobenzyl)-2-(2-furyl)1,2,3-triazolo[5,4-e] 1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine; m.p.  
280-283°C;  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 8.45 (s, 2H); 7.98 (s, 1H); 7.4-7.1 (m, 5H); 6.76 (s, 1H); 5.75 (s, 2H).  
5-amino-7-(8-phenylethyl)-2-(2-furyl)-1,2,3-  
25 triazolo[5,4-e] 1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine; m.p.  
269-271°C;  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 8.4 (s, 2H); 7.98 (s, 1H); 7.3-7.15 (m, 6H); 6.8 (s, 1H); 4.71 (t, 2H); 3.31 (t, 2H) (Compound 376) are obtained.

Example 14

30 A suspension of anhydrous potassium carbonate (30 mmols) in anhydrous DMF (50 ml) is added with 5-amino-

4-cyano-triazole (20 mmols), prepared according to the procedures by Regitz et al. Bull. Soc. Chim. 1975, 1219, and the mixture is heated to a temperature of 80°C for 30 minutes. The suspension is added with p-  
5 fluorobenzyl chloride (25 mmols) and heated for 2 h at 80°C. After cooling to room temperature, solvent is evaporated to dryness under vacuum and the resulting residue is taken up into distilled water (100 ml) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 50 ml). The combined  
10 organic extracts are dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and evaporated to dryness under vacuum. The resulting residue is chromatographed on a silica gel column with mixtures of ethyl acetate and hexane, to give 2-p-fluorobenzyl-5-amino-4-cyano-2H-1,2,3-triazole (49%).  
15 M.p.: 127-128°C; Anal.  $C_{10}H_8FN_5$  (C, H, N); NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ): 7.4-7.1 (m, 4H); 6.2 (sb, 2H, changeable with  $D_2O$ ); 5.45 (s, 2H).

Example 15

A suspension of 2-p-fluorobenzyl-5-amino-4-cyano-  
20 2H-1,2,3-triazole (20 mmols) and 2-furoic acid hydrazide (22 mmols) in diphenyl ether (30 ml) is stirred and heated to reflux (260°C) with a Dean-Stark apparatus until the starting compound disappears (TLC, 1 hour). After cooling, the mixture is diluted with  
25 petroleum ether and the resulting precipitate is either filtered or separated by decantation and chromatographed on a silica gel column eluting with 2:1 ethyl acetate and petroleum ether.  
M.p.: 223-225°C; 2-p-fluorobenzyl-4-[3(2-furyl-1,2,4-  
30 triazol-5-yl)-5-amino-2H-1,2,3-triazole:  $^1H$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ): 14.6 (sb, 1H); 7.86 (s, 1H); 7.4-7.1 (m, 5H); 6.67

(s, 1H); 5.72 (sb, 2H); 5.47 (s, 2H).

Example 16

A suspension of 2-p-fluorobenzyl-4[3(2-furyl)-1,2,4-triazol-5-yl]-5-amino-2H-1,2,3-triazole (0.325 g, 5 mmols) in N-methyl-pyrrolidone (4 ml) is added with cyanamide (6 mmols) followed by p-toluenesulfonic acid (1.5 mmols). The mixture is heated to 160°C with magnetic stirring. After 4 hours, a second portion of cyanamide (6 mmols) is added and heating is continued overnight. The mixture is then treated with hot water (20 ml) and the precipitated solid is filtered, washed with water and crystallized from DMF/H<sub>2</sub>O. The crystallization mother solution is extracted with ethyl acetate (4 x 10 ml), the extracts are washed with brine (2 x 5 ml), dried and evaporated to dryness under vacuum. The residue is then chromatographed on a silica gel column eluting with ethyl acetate, to give 105 mg (yield 30%) of 5-amino-8-p-fluorobenzyl-2-(2-furyl)-1,2,3-triazolo-[5,4-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c] pyrimidine.

20 M.p.: >285°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 8.05 (sb, 2H); 7.95 (s, 1H); 7.5-7.2 (m, 6H); 6.75 (s, 1H); 5.84 (s, 2H) (Compound 363).

Example 17

A suspension stirred and cooled at 0°C of 80% NaH (1.5 moles) in anhydrous DMF (30 ml) is added with a solution of 4-cyano-5-tosylamino-1,2,3-triazole (1 mmole) in anhydrous DMF (5 ml). The mixture is left to react at room temperature for 1 h, after that p-fluorobenzyl chloride (0.90 mmole) is added. The resulting suspension is heated at 80°C overnight. The mixture is evaporated to dryness and the residue taken up into wa-

ter and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 30 ml). The combined organic extracts are dried over sodium sulfate and evaporated to dryness. The oily residue is crystallized from dioxane/water, to give 1-p-fluorobenzyl-5-cyano-4-tosylamino-1-H-1,2,3-triazole in a 56% yield.  
5 M.p.: 163-165°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.8-7.7 (m, 2H); 7.26-7.05 (m, 7H); 5.49 (s, 2H); 2.37 (s, 3H).

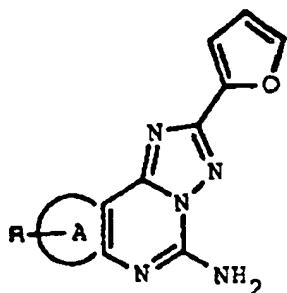
Example 18

1-p-Fluorobenzyl-4-amino-5-cyano-triazole is prepared according to the procedures described by Regitz et al. Liebigs Ann. Chem. 1975, 2159-2168, by acid hydrolysis with concentrated sulfuric acid of the compound of example 17, at -15°C.  
10 M.p.: 105-108°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 7.44-7.19 (m, 4H); 6.27 (sb, 2H); 5.51 (s, 2H).  
15

CLAIMS

## 1. Compounds of formula I:

5



10

I

in which:

A is a pyrazole, imidazole or triazole ring;

R is hydrogen; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl; C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> alkynyl; C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> cycloalkyl; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl substituted with one or more halogen atoms, hydroxy groups, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> cycloalkyl, groups of formula -NR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, -CONR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>; aryl optionally substituted with halogen atoms, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy groups, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, nitro, amino, cyano, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkoxy, carboxy, carboxyamido; C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aralkyl in which the aryl moiety can be substituted with one or more of the substituents indicated above for the aryl group; a group of formula -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-Het, wherein Het is a 5-6 membered aromatic or non aromatic heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, O, S and m is an integer from 1 to 5;

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, which are the same or different, are hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aralkyl, phenyl, or taken together with the nitrogen atom they are linked to, they form an azetidine ring or a 5-6 membered heterocyclic ring con-

taining one or more heteroatoms such as N, O, S and n is an integer from 2 to 5, with the proviso that, when A is a pyrazole or imidazole, R is different from fluorobenzyl.

5 2. Compounds according to claim 1, wherein A is a triazole ring.

3. Compounds according to claim 1, wherein A is a pyrazole ring.

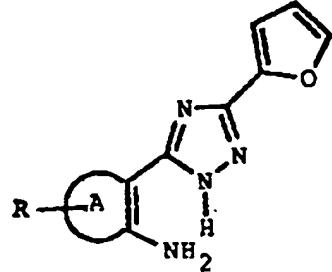
4. Compounds according to claim 1, wherein A is an 10 imidazole ring.

5. Compounds according to any one of the above claims, wherein R is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, aryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aralkyl, optionally substituted with halogen atoms.

15 6. Compounds according to any one of the above claims wherein R is phenethyl in which the phenyl ring may optionally be substituted by one or more substituents selected from chlorine, fluorine atoms, methoxy, nitro, cyano, methyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethoxy groups.

7. A process for the preparation of the compounds of 20 formula I which comprises reacting a compound of formula VII

25



VII

wherein R and A are as defined above, with cyanamide.

8. Pharmaceutical compositions containing as the active ingredient one compound of claims 1-6 in admixture 30 with an acceptable carrier.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l Application No  
PCT/EP 94/02031

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC 6 C07D487/14 A61K31/495 // (C07D487/14, 239:00, 249:00, 249:00),  
 (C07D487/14, 231:00, 239:00, 249:00)

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
 IPC 6 C07D A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP, A, 0 263 071 (CIBA GEIGY AG) 6 April 1988 Compounds (Ib) see page 7, line 8 - line 9 ---	1-8
Y	EP, A, 0 217 748 (CIBA GEIGY AG) 8 April 1987 Compounds (Ic) see page 5, line 64 - line 65 ---	1-8
Y	EUR. J. MED. CHEM. vol. 28, 1993 pages 569 - 576 GATTA ET AL 'Synthesis of imidazo [1,2-c]pyrazolo[4,3-e]pyrimidines' cited in the application Compounds 13e, 13f, 19e, 19f ---	1-8 -/-

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

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1

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 September 1994

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l. Appl. No.  
PCT/EP 94/02031

## C/(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	J.MED.CHEM. vol. 31, 1988 pages 1014 - 1020 FRANCIS ET AL 'Structure-Activity Profile of a Series of Novel Triazoloquinazoline Adenosine Antagonists.' cited in the application Compound 2a see page 1015 -----	1-8
A	US,A,4 713 383 (FRANCIS) 15 December 1987 see claim 10 -----	1-8

1

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Inte. Appl. No.

PCT/EP 94/02031

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		AU-B-	612331	11-07-91
		AU-A-	8027187	21-04-88
		CA-A-	1317590	11-05-93
		DE-A-	3781080	17-09-92
		WO-A-	8802370	07-04-88
		ES-T-	2051772	01-07-94
		JP-T-	1500996	06-04-89
EP-A-0217748	08-04-87	JP-A-	62135475	18-06-87
		US-A-	4831013	16-05-89
US-A-4713383	15-12-87	AU-A-	4813285	10-04-86
		EP-A-	0181282	14-05-86
		JP-A-	61165386	26-07-86